

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 04577 021915Z

51

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 4577

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IT, YO

SUBJECT: ITALIAN-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS

REF: BELGRADE 1494

WE ARE INCLINED TO AGREE WITH AMBASSADOR TOON'S SUGGESTION IN PARA 4 REFTEL THAT DEPARTMENT CALL IN ITALIAN AND YUGOSLAV AMBASSADORS TO REITERATE US NEUTRALITY IN TERRITORIAL DISPUTE AND TO IMPRESS ON BOTH SIDES OUR STRONG DESIRE THAT PRESENT SITUATION NOT BE ALLOWED TO ESCALATE INTO A SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM. WE UNDERSTAND THAT DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS BETWEEN ROME AND BELGRADE AIMED AT RESOLVING DISPUTE HAVE BEEN AT STANDSTILL FOR ALMOST TWO WEEKS. ACCORDINGLY A PUSH BY DEPARTMENT AT THIS TIME COULD HAVE DESIRABLE EFFECT OF GETTING TWO SIDES BACK TO TALKING PRIVATELY. THIS AFFAIR HAS BEEN HANDLED IN LOW KEY BY THE ITALIAN MEDIA, BUT THE ISSUE COULD BE EXPLOITED AT ANY TIME IF THE EMPHASIS ON THE MATTER CONTINUES IN YUGOSLAVIA. WE BELIEVE THE ITALIANS WOULD RESPOND POSITIVELY TO AN APPROACH ON OUR PART.VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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